



ARIZONA MILITARY REGIONAL COMPATIBILITY PROJECT

Project Update #11, October 6, 2003

The Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project is a statewide program to identify resolutions to land use compatibility issues around military airports, installations, and ranges in the State of Arizona. The statewide program is comprised of several individual projects. This project update is one in a series of newsletters that will be distributed throughout the process to keep stakeholders and other interested parties up to date on the various projects.

The first of these projects, the Western Maricopa County / Luke Air Force Base Compatibility Project, was completed March 2003. The Davis-Monthan Air Force Base / Tucson Joint Land Use Study began April 2003. The Luke Auxiliary Field 1 Joint Land Use Study began in July 2003. Projects that will begin in 2004 comprise the Barry M. Goldwater Range Joint Land Use Study, including the Gila Bend Auxiliary Airfield, the Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma Joint Land Use Study consistency review, and the Arizona Statewide Compatibility Policy Guidelines.



DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE / TUCSON JOINT LAND USE STUDY

JOINT LAND USE STUDY POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A unique element of the JLUS Guidelines is the formation of a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). Previous PAC meetings for the Davis-Monthan AFB / Tucson JLUS were held in June, July, August, and September of 2003. The purpose of PAC meetings is to provide timely project information and an opportunity for input by PAC members. The first PAC meeting in June offered the committee an overview of the project and presented issues identified within the study area. During the July PAC meeting, draft noise and safety land use compatibility criteria were introduced and were discussed further during the August and September PAC meetings. The next PAC meeting for this project is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Randolph Clubhouse, Randolph Golf Complex, 600 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ. The agenda for the upcoming October PAC meeting will focus on outstanding project issues and implementation strategies.

All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested parties are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions regarding the Policy Advisory Committee or its meetings, please contact Heather Garbarino, Community Planning Specialist, at the Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 771-1128. You can also visit the Department's website at www.azcommerce.com/communityplanning/compatibility to view PAC agendas, PAC presentations, and previous meeting minutes.

SECOND PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Over 120 citizen participants attended the Second Public Informational Meeting held on September 23, 2003, at the Tucson Convention Center in downtown Tucson. Residents, landowners, business owners, and developers, along with representatives from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment, the Arizona Department of Commerce, the Arizona State Land Department, the University of Arizona, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Pima County, the City of Tucson, and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce joined together to discuss compatible noise and safety land use criteria in the vicinity of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce, Joe Yuhas; Tucson Vice Mayor, Shirley Scott; and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base 355th Vice Wing Commander, Colonel Michael Spencer made brief comments at the meeting to voice their support for the DM AFB / Tucson JLUS.

A presentation provided attendees with project background information, a description of the JLUS Program, introduction to draft noise and safety compatibility criteria, and next steps in the process. A formal public comment period followed the presentation where citizens voiced their questions and concerns. When possible, questions were immediately answered by project team members. All comments went on record and will be taken into consideration as this project moves forward.

Several media outlets attended the Public Informational Meeting, including the *Arizona Daily Star*, *Tucson Citizen*, KVOA Channel 4, and KGUN Channel 9. Media coverage was essential to reaching a community-wide audience. The print and visual media outlets represented have a combined circulation of over 200,000. We extend a special thanks to the City of Tucson for sponsoring the venue and parking fees and to Pima County for providing the refreshments.

Please do not forget to mail in your blue comment cards (distributed at the Public Informational Meeting), or you may email your comments to heatherg@azcommerce.com. Your input is important to the success of this project!

NEXT STEPS AND PROJECT BENCHMARKS

Ongoing:

- Public Review and Input on Draft Criteria and Use Alternatives
- Revise Draft Compatibility Criteria and Compatible Use Alternatives

Next Steps:

- Develop Recommended Implementation Strategies
- Develop Final Study Report
- Begin Implementation of Project Recommendations
- Ongoing Coordination Between Local, County, and State Government

Project Benchmarks:

- PAC Meeting October 22, 2003
- Alternative Scenarios and Implementation Strategies October 2003
- Draft Plan for Review November 2003
- Release Final Plan December 2003
- Stakeholder Executive Briefing January 2003



LUKE AUXILIARY FIELD 1 JOINT LAND USE STUDY

The Luke Auxiliary Field 1 Joint Land Use Study began in July 2003. This project, funded through a Department of Defense JLUS grant, will follow the JLUS Program Guidance that includes the formation of a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The first PAC meeting was held on August 22, 2003, and provided the committee an overview of the JLUS Program Guidance, work program, and project timeline. A second PAC meeting held September 26, 2003, focused on identified project issues. The next Luke Auxiliary Field 1 JLUS PAC meeting will take place Friday, October 24, 2003. A Public Informational Meeting for this project will occur on Wednesday, November 12, 2003, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Ashton Ranch Elementary School, multi-purpose room, 14898 West Acoma Drive in Surprise. The Public Informational Meeting will be followed immediately at 6:00 p.m. by the City of Surprise General Plan Amendment hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this project or the Policy Advisory Committee and its meetings, please contact Heather Garbarino, Community Planning Specialist, at the Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 771-1128. The DoD-approved work program, PAC agendas, and PAC presentations are available on the project website at www.azcommerce.com/communityplanning/compatibility.



BARRY M. GOLDWATER RANGE JOINT LAND USE STUDY

Preliminary scoping for the Barry M. Goldwater Range Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) work program has begun. The study includes the Gila Bend Auxiliary Airfield located between Yuma and Tucson in the Interstate 8 corridor. The Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) extends from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in the south to Interstate 8 near Gila Bend in the north and from the Tohono O'odham Reservation to Yuma on the west. BMGR contains three tactical sub-ranges used for live-fire and simulated artillery and bombing activities (North Tac, South Tac, and East Tac) and four additional ranges used for practice bombing missions for military pilot training. This project, funded through a Department of Defense JLUS grant, will follow the JLUS Program Guidance, which includes the formation of a Working Group and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The BMGR JLUS will begin in 2004.



WESTERN MARICOPA COUNTY / LUKE AFB REGIONAL COMPATIBILITY PLAN

COMPATIBILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Western Maricopa County / Luke AFB Regional Compatibility Plan was completed in March 2003, and work has begun on implementation of the Plan's strategies. Letters have been received since the Plan's release, and this additional input will be utilized in the development of the Statewide Compatibility Policy Guidelines. The Statewide Guidelines, funded through the Department of Defense JLUS grant, will comprise the "best practices" and lessons learned from each of the statewide compatibility projects.

The Western Maricopa County / Luke AFB Regional Compatibility Plan contains the state team's recommendations for balancing growth and preserving the mission of Luke AFB within the current political climate. There is no "hammer" inherent to the Plan; specific implementation will occur through legislative means, at the local jurisdiction level, and through creative partnerships. Every stakeholder has a role to play and a responsibility to work towards acceptable solutions.

GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO'S MILITARY FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Through executive order 2003-18, Governor Napolitano ordered the creation of the Governor's Military Facilities Task Force to develop strategies for ensuring long-term retention of all premier military facilities in Arizona so that they may continue to perform their vital national defense missions. The Task Force comprises nine voting members and one advisory member.

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| ➤ Tom Browning, co-chair | ➤ Lisa Atkins, West Valley |
| ➤ Bob Johnston, co-chair | ➤ Steve Thue, National Guard |
| ➤ Tom Finnegan, Sierra Vista | ➤ Gilbert Jimenez, Department of Commerce |
| ➤ Gene Santerelli, Tucson | ➤ Lori Faeth, Natural Resources Policy |
| ➤ Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe, Yuma | Advisor, Governor's Office |

The advisory member is Patricia Boland (representing the Arizona Attorney General's Office).

In addition, two advisory committees have been formed to assist the Task Force in reaching its conclusions and gathering public input. One advisory committee is composed of local elected officials and the other committee consists of installation commanders.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

The Governor's Military Facilities Task Force conducted its fourth meeting on September 9, 2003. Pursuant to the mission of the Task Force, the members are in the process of developing and refining their recommendations to deliver to Governor Napolitano. These recommendations will identify actions to preserve Arizona's military installations, address issues from a statewide perspective, and evaluate their relevance to the emerging "transformation" of the U.S. Department of Defense. At the September 9, 2003 meeting, the Task Force members received recommendations from several community groups, including a group of farmers/landowners around Luke Air Force Base and the locally elected officials advisory group. These recommendations will be compiled and considered by the Task Force for inclusion in its final report.

The Task Force plans to circulate an initial draft of these recommendations no later than October 31, 2003 for public comment. A final report will be delivered to the Governor on December 1, 2003. To develop this final report, the Task Force is working with the Parsons team, the same consultants that are currently assisting the Arizona Department of Commerce with the statewide Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project.

The next Military Facilities Task Force meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2003, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Central Arizona College, Room M101, 8470 North Overfield Road, Collidge, Arizona. Future meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2003, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Central Arizona Community College, Room I211 and Tuesday, November 18, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Central Arizona Community College, Room M101.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Governor's Military Facilities Task Force, please feel free to contact Tom Browning or the Task Force's Executive Director, Dion Flynn, at (602) 542-7007 or dflynn@az.gov. For the latest updates on the activities of the Task Force, visit the Governor's website at www.governor.state.az.us.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT

To find information, provide feedback, or ask questions about the Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project, please visit the project web site via www.azcommerce.com/communityplanning/compatibility, or contact Deb Sydenham, AICP, Director, Community Planning Office, Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 771-1127 or debs@azcommerce.com.